

24 February 1956

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Dear Tom:

I have your note of 17 February in which you request information as to whether or not we would like to have copies of your personnel action memoranda for our records. Jim and I have discussed this and we believe that it would be advantageous if you could let us have one (1) copy of each such memoranda for us to file in your Detachment file here in Headquarters.

We have also written you a dispatch concerning the Case Officer and Admin Officer for your Detachment. You will remember that the Case Officer has been actually engaged on the fringes of our activities, i.e. shepherding indigenous and native-born contract types around the country for the past several months. We recently agreed to pick him up as the Case Officer for your Detachment and we believe that he should be fully competent to relieve you and the Admin Officer of the burdensome details connected with these chaps both at the training area and, eventually, overseas.

We have also been able to procure Bob K. as your Admin Officer. As you may remember, he is a young, extremely well thought of and seemingly very promising Admin Officer. He has been working for the past several months for Cord in IO and has had a responsible position as Cord's Admin Officer. He has, however, had no previous overseas experience and will have quite a bit to learn in connection with the administrative function of an overseas outfit. I commend him to you as a young guy who can accept responsibility and who desires same; we believe that you may safely entrust him with the handling of your Admin Section and thus be able to devote your time to the higher policy activities of the Base Executive Officer. As you may know, Bob was under consideration for a similar type job way last summer but Cord has been extremely reluctant to release him. Red last week made a final selection and we now will have Bob available to the Project for full time training on or about 5 March. He has a few personal problems - such as breaking his lease and he naturally wishes a few days off in which to visit his aged grandparents, etc, before he actually leaves the country for 18 to 24 months. This we will try and work out and will send him out to you as soon as you are able to give us some firm indication of your desires in this matter.

In our own shop, Jim W. has been given the clear-cut responsibility of bird-dogging all of the military activities and we will initiate a weekly Status Report to you on all Detachment personnel. By this means we hope to keep you better informed of your exact personnel situation. You can also rest assured that we are moving heaven and earth to secure the personnel still missing from your ranks, but we continue to run into the usual clearance difficulties. You may wonder at our inability to produce some of these characters, but your wonderment is only exceeded by our frustration over the losses during the processing procedures. In

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any event, please keep us advised of critical areas wherein you think the present T/O may be out of line and we will attempt to keep up to date with your requirements.

The matter of the contract drivers, I know, continues to be a headache for you. We are now attempting to set up a [] for your present personnel and future personnel for other Detachments, and this simply takes time to work out. Meanwhile, we are very hopeful that we can solve the one urgent situation by the means that Tony will explain to you. We also hope, as we have already mentioned, that the presence of a Case Officer will offer continuity in the handling of these guys and relieve you and Fred of some of the problems connected therewith. We also now have on board a Headquarters backstopping Case Officer who will actually take over from me the whole problem of contract recruitment, processing, and follow through on administrative problems arising with contract cases. In this connection, you may be interested to know that we contemplate another recruitment effort early in March which will be directed at filling your vacant positions as well as procure some of the boys for the next Detachment.

We are also going through a new T/O revision which will formalize some of the positions that we talked about before you departed from Headquarters. As soon as we have something firm along these lines, I will of course see that you get copies of the new T/O.

I still have a rough draft of a check list for processing on my desk. Have you been able to develop one at your end or would you like me to forward this proposed draft to you? Please tell Tony and I will follow through.

Shall expect to hear all of the latest from Tony, of course, but hope that things are beginning to firm up at your end, and please let us hear from you whenever something comes up that you feel we may assist in. Best to all the group and shall "hope to get out to see you sometime in the near future.

Sincerely,

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Dick